

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

JOBS TRAINING PROGRAM

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I know we are going to be looking at economic stimulus packages, and we are going to be trying to jump-start and help our economy. It is my belief that one way that we can do that is to make sure that we provide a jobs training program for the 1 million young people across the country who don't have any money, no job, no employment, many of them are out of school.

Let's consider a job training program for our young people as a part of the economic stimulus package.

UNCLE SAM'S BIG BAILOUT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the gloom, doom, and depressed say the economy is in trouble. The naysayer's solution is a big government bailout.

Since Uncle Sam has apparently spent the money brought in by income taxpayers, he will just borrow \$150 billion and give it away to Americans, many of whom don't even pay income tax.

The idea is that Americans will rush out and spend the free money and that will allegedly help the economy. But the last time the Feds gave away money, 75 percent of the recipients paid off personal debt rather than go shopping at the mall.

And where is Uncle Sam going to borrow \$150 billion? Probably from Communist China, who already owns much of our debt. You know, the country that sells toys to America that contain lead.

How does borrowing billions with interest expecting our kids to pay off our debt make us better off? The big spending gimmick has all of the earmarks of vote pandering.

No individual or country can spend money it doesn't have and then blissfully claim economic victory.

And that's just the way it is.

WORKING TOGETHER

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, tonight we expect to hear President Bush's last State of the Union address to this Congress. I hope that the recent days working together with this Congress on a bipartisan economic stimulus package can be a good model for

the rest of this year and the rest of this President's term.

We want to extend a hand to work with him when we can, and this is a good example of how we can do it. But if we see continued roadblocks to progress in this country, we must work to break those roadblocks down and continue to work restoring fiscal responsibility in our government, changing course in Iraq, preparing to address global climate change, addressing the military readiness crisis in this country, and restoring America's moral leadership in the world.

I believe we can and we must continue to work together for the great needs of this country. I hope we can continue to do that for the rest of this session.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 24, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 24, 2008, at 10:08 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 63.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 25, 2008, at 9:55 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 282.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Thursday, January 24, 2008:

H.R. 3432, to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

H.R. 4986, to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Author-

ization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgments against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 5 p.m. today.

FELIX SPARKS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4240) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, as the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4240

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FELIX SPARKS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

I rise today to pay tribute and say thank you to a Colorado icon and an American hero, Felix Sparks, with H.R. 4240.

Sparks, who recently passed away at the age of 90, lived an extraordinary life that exemplified public service and devotion to one's country.

A Texas native raised in Arizona, Felix Sparks was a part of our "Greatest Generation" who answered our Nation's call to duty during the Second World War.

Described as a "soldier's soldier," he would endure over 500 days of combat and partake in three of the most important events that would define modern history.

The Battle of Reipertswiller, the Battle at the Caves of Anzio, and the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

One story in particular that I would like to call to your attention which attests to the character of Felix Sparks occurred during the Battle of Reipertswiller, a battle in which 158 enlisted soldiers were killed, 300 men were wounded, and another 426 were captured over a course of only 3 days.

After finding his unit under siege and trapped in enemy territory, Sparks, then a lieutenant colonel, refused to leave behind three of his men who lay incapacitated in the open battlefield.

Facing near-certain death, he courageously left his tank and raced, on foot, directly into the close-range crosshairs of the German gunners to rescue those soldiers.

□ 1415

With only a holstered pistol in tow, he would drag each of his wounded comrades, one by one, to safety.

A personal account of this series of events was uncovered in the memoirs of a German SS officer who had commanded his gunner not to fire on Sparks. The memoir read: "Those of us witnessing the scene, whether nearby or more distant, instinctively felt there was no honor to be won by firing on this death-defying act of comradeship."

Sparks also cheated death a year earlier at the Battle of the Caves of Anzio in Italy, where he would be only one of two men in his company to survive. Sparks was part of the first Allied force to witness the horrors and atrocities of the Dachau concentration camp on the discovery of 39 rail cars packed with some 2,000 Holocaust victims. In all, 30,000 prisoners were liberated from Dachau by the Allied Forces; and for the rest of his life, Sparks would continue to speak out at Holocaust remembrance ceremonies.

Based on his experiences at Dachau, Felix was tireless in his efforts to refute those shameless individuals who try to rewrite history and claim the Holocaust and Dachau never occurred. He'd say: "Tell that to my face" in a shout and in a voice that indicated he'd been there and saw it personally.

For his service during World War II, he was awarded a Silver Star and two

Purple Hearts after being severely wounded on the battlefield. He would continue his military service with the National Guard until his retirement as a brigadier general in 1977.

And upon his return from the war, enamored with stories from his men about their hometowns in the Rocky Mountains, Felix and his wife settled in Colorado. There, the Sparks family would grow to include four children, six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

He would earn his law degree from the University of Colorado and become a Colorado district attorney. Renowned for his commanding speaking ability, Felix would then go on to become the youngest supreme court justice in Colorado's history at just 38 years of age. He would preside over several of the most prolific and high profile cases in our State's history.

After his service on our State's highest court, Sparks, an expert in water law, would serve for over two decades as the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He would write some of the most influential and important groundwater laws that have continued to serve our State for decades thereafter.

I came to know Felix during my days in the Colorado senate after he had testified in my committee with regard to an anti-gun violence measure following the tragic death of his grandchild from a drive-by shooting. His passion and his words live with me to this day. And he was so well respected for his honesty and straightforward testimony.

It is also important to note, after returning home from the war, Felix would continue to personally reach out to console the families of his men and promise them he would never forget.

Mr. Speaker, one of the main reasons I bring this bill to the floor today is so this promise that Felix Sparks made to the families of his men can live on for generations. This bill pays tribute to Felix's men in the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division of the United States Army, whose motto since the Spanish-American War has been "Eager for Duty."

Our Nation can never adequately repay and give thanks to these individuals for their sacrifices in the battles against tyranny, in the battles for our Nation's freedom. It is my hope the renaming of the Lakewood post office for Felix Sparks will inspire future generations to find a calling in public service.

This bill also pays tribute to Mary Sparks and the Sparks family, who meant so much to Felix and to our community.

In closing, I wish to thank each of my colleagues in the Colorado delegation for joining me in bidding a fond farewell to a man who meant so much to our State and to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4240 to rename the Lakewood post office in Felix Sparks' honor.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to honor the memory of a great American, Felix Sparks, who recently passed away at the age of 90. Mr. Sparks' commitment to our country began in 1940 when he joined the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division. He would go on to fight bravely in World War II, earning a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. During the war, he even helped liberate 30,000 people from the infamous Dachau concentration camp.

Upon returning to the States, Felix and his wife, Mary, settled in Colorado. Still wanting to continue his service to our country, he then joined the National Guard. He would remain active in the Guard until 1970, when he retired as a brigadier general.

Besides his exemplary military service record, Mr. Sparks also excelled as a civilian. He had a brilliant legal mind. This was reflected in his appointment to the supreme court of Colorado at the age of 38, making him the youngest justice in the State's history.

His expertise was water law, which he applied as director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board for over two decades.

Considering his years of selfless public service to his State and to his country, I believe it is a fitting tribute to name a post office in Colorado in his honor. Hopefully, his life will serve as an example to others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4240, which names a postal facility in Lakewood, Colorado, after Felix Sparks.

H.R. 4240, which was introduced by Representative PERLMUTTER on November 15, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12, 2007, by voice vote. The measure has the support of the entire Colorado congressional delegation and provides us with yet another opportunity to pay tribute to an extraordinary American citizen.

Felix Sparks served his country proudly as a World War II Army brigadier and served his community diligently as a member of the Colorado supreme court. For his service in World War II, Mr. Sparks was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts after being wounded on the battlefield.

Additionally, for over 20 years, Mr. Sparks worked to protect and improve the environment in the great State of Colorado by serving as director of Colorado's Water Conservation Board.

Mr. Speaker, given Mr. Sparks' contribution to Colorado, and to America in general, he deserves to be commended. Therefore, I would urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers, but I want to urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4240, the naming of this post office for this great American hero.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and would urge passage.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LARRY S. PIERCE POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2110) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2110

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LARRY S. PIERCE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, shall be known and designated as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 2110, which names the postal facility in the town of Taft, California, after Larry S. Pierce.

S. 2110, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California on September 27, 2007, and passed by the Chamber with unanimous consent on November 16, 2007, was considered and reported out of the Oversight Committee by voice vote on December 12, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us seeks to pay tribute to a great American serviceman by requesting that the postal facility in Taft, California, be renamed in honor of Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce, who lost his life at the young age of 24 while fighting for our country in the Vietnam War. A recipient of the Medal of Honor, Staff Sergeant Pierce stands as a reminder to us all of the great sacrifice our men and women in uniform are making on a daily basis to protect America.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from California in recognizing the contributions of Staff Sergeant Larry S. Pierce and urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise today to honor the memory of Army Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce, a true American hero.

Larry Pierce was raised in Taft, California. He would have graduated from Taft Union High School in 1959, but he chose to enlist in the Army in 1958. Seven years later, having achieved the rank of staff sergeant, Larry found himself in Vietnam as the squad leader of a reconnaissance platoon. On September 20, 1965, his squad was on patrol when it was ambushed by hostile forces. Thanks to Staff Sergeant Pierce's leadership and courage, the squad successfully repelled the attack, driving the enemy away. While in pursuit of the enemy, Pierce's squad came across a dirt road. It was on this road Sergeant Pierce discovered an anti-personnel mine. Knowing it would destroy the majority of his squad who was not aware of its presence, Sergeant Pierce threw himself completely on top of the mine. In this act of unbelievable bravery, Sergeant Pierce saved the lives of all his squad, while sacrificing his own. For his actions he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He left behind a wife and three children.

Sergeant Pierce represents the very best in the tradition of service and selflessness of our Armed Forces. It is fitting that we name this post office in his hometown of Taft, California, in his honor. Surely, his story can live as an example of what it truly means to be a hero.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the author of the companion bill that was dropped here in the House, the distinguished colleague of mine from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for as much time as he may consume.

□ 1430

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the legislation, S. 2110, to designate the United States Post Office located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the Larry S. Pierce Post Office, the true hometown hero.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Pierce was born in Oklahoma in 1941. As a young child, his family moved to Taft, California, which I represent today. Sergeant Pierce attended Taft city schools and would have graduated from Taft Union High School with the class of 1959 but decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army in 1958.

Sergeant Pierce served in the 1st Battalion Airborne, 503rd Infantry and the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War.

On September 20, 1965, near Ben Cat in Vietnam, Sergeant Pierce was leading his reconnaissance platoon, was ambushed by hostile forces. Sergeant Pierce and his squad successfully routed the hostile forces from their location. During pursuit of this enemy, Sergeant Pierce heroically sacrificed his own life to save his men. He came upon a road where they found a mine. He threw himself upon it knowing that if this mine went off, it would destroy many and take many lives of his own men.

Upon hearing of this and upon his death, in February of 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Sergeant Pierce the Medal of Honor. In this award, he went on to say for his "inspiring leadership and personal courage," and his "profound concern for his fellow soldiers," acting with "extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life" and to "great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country."

Sergeant Pierce would have been 66 years old this year. He is survived by his wife, Verlin, who currently lives in Bakersfield, California; his children, Teresa, Kelley and Gregory.

This legislation is a fitting honor for a Vietnam War veteran who sacrificed his life to save the lives of fellow soldiers by naming the post office in his hometown of Taft in his memory.

I do want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation and for working with me. Taft is a place where Senator FEINSTEIN's own father worked. She knows of the work of Sergeant Larry Pierce, the hometown hero, as many have gone on to say.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a copy of Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce's Medal of Honor and a copy of the Taft City Council letter of support and resolution requesting the post office in his name.

U.S. ARMY—MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION
PIERCE, LARRY S.

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Place and date: Near Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam, 20 September 1965. Entered service at: Fresno, Calif. Born: